

## Jordan agrees to Moroccan proposal

TUNIS (Peta) — Jordan has agreed to a Moroccan proposal to convene the 94th ordinary session of the Arab League Council in Tunis Thursday, raising to five the number of Arab countries which have agreed to the proposal. The others are Iraq, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. In a memo delivered to the Arab League Headquarters by its permanent envoy to the league, Jordan said it agrees to the proposal to convene the meeting at the level of permanent delegates' provided that the gathering is limited to an opening session at that level. The Moroccan proposal, which called on all 21 members of the Arab League to attend the meeting, said that the gathering will remain open after the opening session to offer the opportunity to Arab foreign ministers to decide on Arab participation at the United Nations General Assembly session, which opened this week and to set a date for a session of the Arab League Council. Permanent delegates to the Arab League secretariat are expected to meet Monday to prepare an agenda for the meeting.

# Jordan Times

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## Iraq sets deadline for Kd exchange

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Sunday gave holders of Kuwaiti dinars 12 days to exchange the currency at 100 percent for Iraqi dinars. A statement by Iraq's economic commission said nearly \$3.5 before Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2 — would be exchanged for one Iraqi dinar. Baghdad's official exchange rate for its currency is just over \$3.2 to go by as the dimar. But outside Iraq it was worth barely a twelfth of that even before the invasion. The statement said the decision was made after "the merger of Iraq and Kuwait...and to prevent dual budget application in both currencies." It said banks have been ordered to start applying the new rule from Monday until Oct. 6, after which the Kuwaiti dinar "will be an illegal currency."

## Iraq may turn to Moscow for nuclear power

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq said Sunday it would destroy all Middle East oilfields if its people were strangled by foreign forces assembling in the Gulf region. The Iraqi leadership also said Kuwait's merger with Iraq was "an eternal decision" that was irreversible, and threatened that Israel would be "transformed into something different" if the United States provoked a military conflict.

"We will never allow anybody, whenever he may be, to strangle the people of Iraq without having himself strangled," said a communiqué from the Revolutionary Command Council, Iraq's highest decision-making body, and the ruling Baath Party.

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## Gulf crisis is top item for U.N. debate

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — French President Francois Mitterrand is expected to condemn Iraq for invading Kuwait and holding foreign "hostages" when the 45th General Assembly opens its debate Monday.

Mitterrand will usher in a chorus of denunciation of Iraq as an international outlaw as the annual three-week cycle of speakers before the 160-member assembly unfolds.

As customary in the nearly half-century of annual debate, Brazil will provide the first speaker, newly elected President Fernando Collor.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will undoubtedly reinforce the attacks on Iraq when he speaks Tuesday, as will U.S. President George Bush, who addresses the assembly next Monday.

But Mitterrand will be the focus of attention Monday, due to French outrage over Iraq's alleged raids on European diplomatic compounds on Sept. 15.

France immediately called for an emergency meeting of the Security Council, which convened the next day and held a session that culminated in a unanimous denunciation of Iraq in the early hours of Sept. 16.

That resolution also warned Iraq that the Security Council would adopt other measures to punish Baghdad for its "transgressions" — which are expected to be passed at an extraordinary council meeting on Tuesday.

The council plans to adopt a resolution imposing an air embargo on Iraq, which would be the first time the world body ever levied such sanctions on a member.

Flights out of Iraq and Kuwait would be limited to those taking out refugees; inbound flights would be inspected, and would only be allowed to carry shipments of food or medicines approved by the Security Council.

## Ershad launches Gulf push

ABU DHABI (R) — Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad said Sunday he was leading an effort by six Asian Muslim countries to get Iraq out of Kuwait.

Ershad told reporters in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during a Gulf visit that Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives, and Brunei were also involved in the initiative.

"I want to make very clear the first condition is that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait, and the legitimate government of Kuwait be restored before any discussion (with Iraq) can take place," he said.

"There cannot be any compromise on this subject," he added.

Ershad said the six were willing to mediate talks between Kuwait and Iraq only after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whom he described as a friend, pulled his troops out.

Ershad said he had no plans to visit Baghdad but the six were preparing a joint message to send Iraq.

Their effort is unlikely to sway Iraq from its takeover of Kuwait but Arab diplomats said the move was more welcome support for Arab states allied against Iraq.

"We hope Iraq will accept a peace settlement. But if there is no such settlement... it has to be resolved because Iraq's staying in Kuwait will not be accepted," Ershad said.

Bangladesh and Pakistan have each pledged 5,000 troops to the international military buildup in the Gulf.

Ershad, after talks with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan, said Bangladesh would consider sending troops to any other Gulf state which requested help.

## U.S. professor 'forgot' about his letter to King

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina (R) — A professor, thrust into the spotlight by the televised response of His Majesty King Hussein to his letter, said Saturday he wrote to encourage the Monarch's peace efforts.

Edwin Brown, 61, a professor at the University of North Carolina, told a reporter he had almost forgotten about his letter to the King.

The quiet, classics professor said he had been "baffled for a while" by reporters questions when reached by telephone.

But after thinking for a moment he remembered: "It was a letter I wrote about a month ago to the King."

King Hussein, in a broadcast on Cable News Network Saturday, characterised the correspondence as "a thoughtful, perceptive, humane letter of encouragement from an American citizen."

He added "I shall... for as long as what remains of my life remember Mr. Brown's letter, and cherish its sentiments with gratitude."

Brown recalled, "I stressed in that letter that he must not despair of the decency and goodwill of the American people. We are not, as ordinary citizens, interested first and foremost in

keeping our oil supplies cheap. And that gets lost in the shuffle sometimes."

Brown said he wrote to King Hussein because "I identified with anyone who was in such a minority and boxed in by so many more powerful forces. And I know from my own experience just a simple letter of encouragement is very timely."

"So I sat down and wrote him in hope that at least one of his hard-working secretaries would see it and appreciate it," Brown said.

"It never occurred to me they would actually go all the way to the top," said Brown, adding he had not received any previous acknowledgment of his letter.

He also did not know King Hussein would mention the letter and he had not watched the television broadcast.

Brown, who is teaching a course on ancient Greece and has "never been east of Rhodes," said he has never met the King.

Brown said he has sent letters to French President Francois Mitterrand and the late Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev. He also wrote to Soviet General Secretary Yuri Andropov just after the downing of Korean Air Lines Flight 007 in October 1983.

## U.S. scales back Saudi arms deal to \$10 b

By Rita Beamish  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President George Bush's administration, facing congressional resistance to a huge military sale, has scaled back its initial Saudi Arabia arms package to around \$10 billion according to sources.

The White House has announced that it will send Congress a request early this week seeking a two-phase arms sale to the Saudis.

"We want to get something that people will clearly support," said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "You want to package it such a way that it helps the Saudis and it's politically possible here."

The details were still being worked out over the weekend, but the package was expected to be in the neighbourhood of \$10 billion according to sources familiar with the deal.

billion for that phase, according to two administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The package was being formulated with an eye towards assurance of congressional passage, after initial negative reaction from the lawmakers to a larger package, said one official.

Saudi Arabia agreed to the formulation that would involve an immediate package of "things that are readily available in the U.S. inventory", and more arms to be requested of Congress early next year, officials said.

The first phase is expected to include items that the administration can will have immediate use and delivery — such as Tom anti-tank missiles, Patriot anti-aircraft and anti-missile systems and F-15 fighter jets,

according to sources familiar with the deal.

## Cairo editor wants anti-Palestinian action

CAIRO (AP) — A leading Egyptian commentator complained Saturday of a Palestinian "fifth column" in the Arab World. He demanded that Palestinians be denied entry into Egypt.

Editor Ibrahim Seda of the government's Akhbar Al Yom, a weekly newspaper with a circulation of more than a million, also urged that Palestinian residents be forced to sell their businesses and live off the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) if necessary.

And Seda called on President Hosni Mubarak's government to reconsider its position on the Palestinians' basic cause: a homeland in the Middle East.

Seda's attack and demands were unprecedented, the harshest ever by a reputable Egyptian commentator towards the PLO and the people it represents.

Seda in recent years has unleashed a number of scathing blasts at the organization, its Chairman Yasser Arafat and other leaders. But Saturday's front-page column, illustrated by a cartoon showing Arafat hugging an Arab with a knife poised to plunge into his back, marked the first time he widened the scope of his punch to include Palestinians

generally.

Mubarak and other Egyptian officials always have said differences with the PLO cannot be allowed to affect Cairo's support of the Palestinians in their conflict with Israel.

There was no indication whether the article was inspired by the government as a warning to the PLO.

Headlined "the fifth column" the article cited many grievances against the Palestinians. But the strongest was their apparent support of Iraq.

"Yasser Arafat's elation at the invasion and occupation of Kuwait is not confined to the president of the so-called State of Palestine. It extends to 99 per cent of the Palestinian people," Seda wrote.

"They are all with Saddam Hussein, the thief of Baghdad... they are all against the rich people of Kuwait and other Gulf countries."

He said this "criminal" stance by the Palestinians destroys their case against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

By fighting four wars against Israel for the Palestinian cause "turned Egypt from the richest to

the poorest country in the region," Seda wrote.

"Not a single Egyptian now can put up with the Palestinians more than he already has done in the face of their ingratitude, hatred and opportunism. The time has come for us now to reconsider our position (on) the Palestinians and their problem, which they do not want to solve, attacking anyone who tries to solve it for them honourably."

Seda addressed the article to Prime Minister Aef Sedki rather than Mubarak, who controls foreign policy.

While demanding that Palestinians be banned from entering Egypt, Seda said those already in the country should be permitted to stay.

But they should be required to liquidate their businesses and live either on their own money or on grants from the PLO's billions of dollars in bank deposits, Seda wrote.

Palestinians in Egypt are estimated at 50,000 to 60,000. Many are prosperous businessmen, owners of chains of grocery stores and other shops or trading companies. Egypt's 11 universities have several thousand Palestinian students.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iran says its has MiG-29 jets

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, whose air force has long relied on an ageing fleet of U.S. fighter jets, has acquired MiG-29 fighters, Iranian television reported. One of the Soviet-designed aircraft, which Moscow first put into service in 1985, was shown Saturday's regular evening news wheeling out of a hangar, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. The plane was marked with the Iranian air force emblem. IRNA said the television reported that the MiG-29 would be put into operation this week to mark what Iran sees as the anniversary of the start of the Gulf war with Iraq. Iranian television did not say how many MiGs Iran had acquired, which country they were bought from or when they were purchased. In May 1989 Iran said it was buying new fighter-bombers from an unnamed country, but not the Soviet Union or the United States. Western defence analysts said at the time that North Korea could be a source for new fighter jets for Tehran.

### Bomb kills two in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — A bomb explosion in west Beirut killed two people Saturday night as tension grew between rival Shiite Muslim militias, security sources said. They said the two died and were burned beyond recognition when a bomb blasted a residential street in Bourj Al Barajneh district, near Beirut airport. The bombing followed clashes between the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) and Syrian-backed Amal militiamen in the mostly Shiite southern suburb. The rivals, vying for supremacy over Lebanon's Shiite community, also duelled with artillery and multi-barrelled rocket-launchers along the strategic Iqlim Al Toufah mountainous ridge, some 40 kilometres south of Beirut. The clashes were the latest in a series of violations of a ceasefire brokered earlier this month by Iran and Syria. More than 1,200 people are estimated to have been killed in the feud, which dates back to 1987. Hezbollah wants an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Lebanon. The more moderate Amal merely seeks reform to give Muslims more say in the Christian-dominated political system.

### Cairo says 24 Egyptians killed in Iraq

CAIRO (R) — Egypt says at least 24 of its nationals have been killed in Iraq, some while trying to flee the country after Baghdad's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. President Hosni Mubarak ordered Interior Minister Mohammed Abd El Hameid Musa to launch an inquiry into the killings. "Since August 2 until the day before yesterday (Thursday) 24 bodies of Egyptians working in Iraq arrived in Egypt," Al Ahram newspaper Sunday quoted Musa as saying. "We have definite information some of them died on the Iraqi-Jordanian border and all were killed violently and in brutal attacks," he told the semi-official newspaper after Mubarak ordered the inquiry Saturday. About 1.6 million Egyptians, mostly labourers, worked in Iraq before the invasion and 150,000 lived in Kuwait. Officials say 290,000 have returned, most after streaming desultory with Jordan. Many refugees say Iraqi troops robbed them. Musa said that even before the invasion, autopsies on bodies of some Egyptians sent back from Iraq showed they had been murdered. Iraqi medical documents on the coffins said they died in accidents.

### Prague to send 200 men to Gulf

CAPRI Italy (AP) — President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia said Saturday his country plans to send a force of 200 men to the Gulf as part of the multinational effort against Iraq. Havel, who is in Italy on a three-day visit, told reporters the 200 soldiers would be deployed in Saudi Arabia with equipment for use in defence against chemical weapons. He said the force would be sent as soon as possible. "We are ready," Havel was quoted as saying by the news agency AGI. "We only need to resolve some logistical problems." On another issue, he said Czechoslovakia hopes to become a full member of the European Community by the year 2000. "That is the time necessary for the transformation of our economic system," he said. Havel travelled to this island off Naples to receive a literary award Sunday for his work as a playwright. On Monday, in Rome, he will hold talks with President Francesco Cossiga and Premier Giulio Andreotti and meet Pope John Paul II.

### Egyptian ships on way to Saudi Arabia

SUEZ (AP) — Three Egyptian navy ships carrying troops and military equipment to Saudi Arabia entered the Suez Canal Sunday, a canal source said. The source, who declined to be named under the canal authority's regulations, said the three navy cargo ships were AL Sindbad, the Ahmos and Sharm Sheikh. The exact number of troops and kinds of equipment on board was not known. On Saturday, three ships carrying several thousand Egyptian troops along with their tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery and missile launchers arrived in the western Saudi port of Yanbu on the Red Sea.

## VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC

The third convoy carrying food and medical supplies for Iraqi children will leave Amman today, Monday Sept. 24, 1990 at 5:00 p.m. from the Seventh Circle heading along the Queen Alia International Airport highway. The convoy will be under the slogan "From the Stone Children, the Heroes of the Intifada in Palestine to the Children of Iraq." Members of the public and their children are invited to join the gathering bidding farewell to the convoy and express their solidarity with the Iraqi children.

*Signed by the General Union of Voluntary Societies in Jordan.*

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.  
Apple ..... 550 / 400

Banana ..... 500 / 450

Banana (Mukammar) ..... 450 / 400

Beets ..... 350 / 300

Cabbage ..... 120 / 80

Cauliflower ..... 250 / 200

Corn ..... 200 / 180

Cucumbers (large) ..... 140 / 90

Cucumbers (small) ..... 250 / 200

Dates ..... 400 / 350

Eggs ..... 200 / 150

Figs ..... 400 / 300

Garlic ..... 800 / 700

Grapes ..... 280 / 220

Mallow ..... 230 / 180

Marrow (large) ..... 120 / 80

Marrow (small) ..... 250 / 220

Onion (dry) ..... 220 / 180

Onion (green) ..... 450 / 400

Okra ..... 380 / 300

Peaches ..... 380 / 300

Pear ..... 600 / 500

Pepper (hot) ..... 250 / 200

Pepper (sweet) ..... 250 / 200

Potato ..... 350 / 300

Radish ..... 150 / 100

Sage ..... 550 / 500

Sweet melon ..... 250 / 200

Romance ..... 140 / 100

Watermelon ..... 190 / 130

## HOSPITALS

Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 580100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 615615

Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53200  
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport ..... 06-53200

Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111

## Lower House condemns Saudi's oil cut-off to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday issued a statement describing Saudi Arabia's decision to cut off its oil supplies to Jordan as a way to deprive the Jordanian people and to mark what it said was a greater danger posed to the Arab Nation by Israel.

The statement, the first reaction from Jordan to Riyadh's decision taken on Sept. 19, said that cutting off the oil supplies to Jordan, under the present difficult circumstances, was bound to deter Jordan from confronting Israel's aggression which "would come my moment once the order comes for attack from the command of the foreign forces now present on Arab soil."

The statement said that events in the Gulf were closely connected to the Palestine problem

and the ongoing Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, the Syrian Golan Heights and Lebanon. The statement condemned the idea of creating a foreign Zionist security alliance in Arab land in collaboration with some Arab regimes.

The projected imperialist alliance is designed to help the United States to consolidate its hold over Arab wealth and the holy lands," said the statement. It said that the Lower House of Parliament calls the Arab World's attention to the danger inherent in such alliance and America's designs in the Arab region.

The statement issued by Parliament's emergency committee called on Arab countries in general and the nine states which refused

to support foreign intervention in the Gulf in particular to hold a general conference designed to find means of confronting foreign forces' occupation of holy land and to adopt a common Arab strategy to resolve the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework.

The statement appealed to the Arab parliaments to convene an extraordinary Arab Parliamentary Union meeting to discuss the situation and called on all Arab and Islamic organisations to mobilise their potentials to confront the danger of foreign occupation in the Gulf region.

Furthermore the statement praised Iran's position vis-a-vis foreign occupation of the Arabian peninsula and the Islamic holy shrines and its declaration of a holy war to liberate the holy places from foreign occupation.

## Parliamentarians form advisory committee to follow up relief works

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of seven parliament deputies Sunday acquainted themselves with the work undertaken by the voluntary societies and the Jordanian government in providing relief aid to the evacuees stranded in Jordan, and formed themselves into an advisory committee to follow on relief work and report to Parliament.

The group, led by Deputy Abdulla Ensour, met with Her Royal Highness Princess Basma at her office and were briefed on the assistance provided to the evacuees at their various centres, especially at the Andalous and Aqaba camps, where they gather before their departure by air or sea.

The Parliament members expressed appreciation for the role played by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) and other organisations in dealing with the evacuees under the present circumstances and the collections and contributions they raise for solving their problems.

Head of a special higher governmental committee in charge of the evacuees affair, Salameh Hammam, presented a detailed briefing on the efforts carried out to alleviate the suffering of the evacuees and to repatriate them as soon as possible.

Apart from Ensour, the deputies included Issa Reimouni, Ziyad Al Shurweh, Mohammad Alawneh, Husni Shab, Salameh Al Ghweiri and Tatta Al Shawan. They are joined by Walid Asfour and Hamdi Tabbaa in the advisory committee.

Princess Basma, chairperson of QAF's board of trustees, had earlier formed an emergency committee grouping QAF, Save

the Children Fund, and the Jordanian Scouts and Girl-Guide movements to recruit volunteers to work at the evacuee camps providing food, medical assistance, shelter and means of transportation.

Meanwhile, the Public Security Department (PSD) announced Sunday that 12,702 expatriates had arrived in Jordan through various border posts Saturday, but a total of 16,219 had left the country by air on Saturday aboard 34 unscheduled flights.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said a total of 7,782 expatriates had left the country by air on Saturday aboard 34 unscheduled flights.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) and various airlines are taking part in repatriating the foreign nationals in cooperation with various world relief organisations.

The Parliament members expressed appreciation for the role played by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) and other

## People rush for fuel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians rushed some on Sunday to fill their tanks with kerosene and fuel oil after Saudi Arabia abruptly stopped pumping crude oil to the Kingdom and the government said that it was studying rationing programmes.

"I took my car to the gas station this morning to fill it," Mohammad Najar, a business man, said Sunday while he waited his turn at a Shmeisani petrol station.

Drivers reportedly had no problems getting all the petrol they needed but many reported a shortage of kerosene or diesel oil — two heating fuels.

"I went to five stations but could not find kerosene," Saeed Hourani said. According to several gas stations contacted by the Jordan Times, there was a rush today for kerosene and fuel oil and "while they were at the station they of course filled their cars."

Other drivers said they would not try to stock up oil products and were waiting to see what happens.

"The government, trying to play down the tense relations with Riyadh, said that the Saudi decision to cut off supplies was a commercial one. Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher reacted to the action by the Tapline company, by saying: 'We will look at the issue and treat it as a debt issue.'

Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said that the issue was a "misunderstanding."

The Tapline company, in breach of its contract with the Jordanian government cut off supplies as of Thursday within only six hours notice.

The company demanded that Jordan immediately pay \$46 million for previous oil supplied to the Kingdom.

Taher told the Jordan Times Saturday that the government was considering rationing oil products. He said the Kingdom had only "a few weeks' reserve supply."

AMMAN — Foreign forces are in the Gulf for colonial motives — deputies

after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait," they said.

"Arab masses from the Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean realise the real intentions and objectives of the United States and its allies and will do everything in their power to abort colonial plans designed to sow dissension among Arab states," they added.

In Irbid students of Yarmouk University held a march at the campus to show solidarity with the Iraqi people and support for His Majesty King Hussein's stand vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis and his support for the Palestinian people.

They said that the United States was seeking to impose its hegemony on world countries with the purpose of protecting its selfish interests. "The emergence of Iraq as a major deterrent power in the Arab World has motivated Washington to move fast and invade the Gulf soon

after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait," they said.

"Arab masses from the Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean realise the real intentions and objectives of the United States and its allies and will do everything in their power to abort colonial plans designed to sow dissension among Arab states," they added.

Analysts believe Riyadh was angered by a three-day conference of predominantly leftist groups in Amman. The conference, under Royal patronage, condemned Saudi Arabia for allowing foreign forces on its territory.

The nomination of Arabyat described as a commercial issue, analysts see it as a clear political message expressing Saudi Arabia's anger towards Jordan, where popular sentiment is running high in favour of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Arabyat, who leads a group of 22 Muslim Brotherhood members in the House, said it was not important who would be elected speaker, but what really mattered was the achievement of further gains for the democratisation process in Jordan since "Parliament is an important institution with independent powers for enacting legislation and for playing an active role in the country."

The nomination of Arabyat raised to three the number of candidates running for the House of speakers in addition to the incumbent Speaker Suleiman Arar. The other two are Laith Shbeihat and Atef Boush from the independent Islamic bloc.

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## Way out of bounds

WHEN Iraq took over Kuwait on Aug. 2 His Majesty King Hussein immediately stressed the need to contain the crisis within the Arab family and warned against foreign intervention in the area. From that moment on, pushed and encouraged by the Americans, the Saudis and their allies in the Gulf and in the Arab World chose to ignore the King's warnings and went along with every step the U.S. has taken to pressure Iraq and strangle it. Every step the U.S. and its allies took was countered and matched by an Iraqi action that further complicated the problem and made a peaceful solution more difficult and less attainable. Jordan's leadership, however, relentlessly continued its efforts and is still doing so. King Hussein, with nearly four decades of political experience in the quagmires of the Middle East, has cautioned his fellow Arab leaders against resorting to a "foreign" and military solution to a basically Arab conflict. Events since Aug. 2 have proven the King's course and direction to be correct. But despite his efforts and those of other world leaders, notably the Soviet Union's, the region is still threatened by the grim possibility of a devastating war. And every day carries more revealing news on how destructive and devastating a war in the Gulf would be. Not only that. The U.S. has already started talking, presumably for the discomfort of the Saudis and their allies, of staying in the region even after the crisis was resolved one way or the other.

In his endeavours to defuse the crisis, King Hussein travelled everywhere that he could reach. He went to the U.S., Europe and to many countries in the Middle East. His last attempt has been his talks with King Hassan II of Morocco and President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria last Thursday.

From the beginning of the crisis, Jordan announced it was abiding by international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions. Jordan would not recognise Iraq's annexation of Kuwait and would abide by Security Council Resolution 661. However, because Jordan was one of the countries most adversely affected by the sanctions against Iraq, and in accordance with article 50 of the U.N. charter, the Jordanian government started talks with the U.N. to find a formula to implement the sanctions with the least possible damage to the country's economy. A package of international aid for Jordan, Turkey and Egypt is still being worked out at the U.N. Security Council. Jordan did not include in its list of losses the possibility of Saudi and Gulf states expelling Jordanian nationals or the effect of a boycott of Jordanian exports or the effect of an embargo on Jordanian imports. All these Jordan has suffered recently. Furthermore, on Aug. 22, Saudi Arabia offered to supply Jordan with half of its oil needs in order to cut the country's dependence on Iraqi oil. The Saudis had initially agreed to supply the Kingdom with one million barrels of oil in September. And Saudi oil started flowing in at the rate of 33,000 barrels per day. However, on Sept. 20 the Saudis, using an invalid and weak pretext reversed their decision and decided to deny Jordan the oil it had promised. More recently, Saudi Arabia announced that it was expelling a number of our diplomats.

One is at a loss to interpret the Saudi decisions. The Saudis are still dealing with the same Jordanians that have always gone out of their way to defend the Arab order, including Saudi Arabia's. We have done that in Kuwait in 1961, in Yemen in 1962, in Oman in the 1970s and in Mecca in 1980. Jordan's leadership is certainly the same. So are its principles and commitments.

Our brothers in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf ought to realise that a war triggered by Western military troops massed on Saudi soil will harm Saudi Arabia itself first and foremost.

If Jordan is against foreign intervention in the region, it is only because Jordan is concerned about Arab lands, Arab wealth, the Arab order and well-being and future of all Arabs.

The crisis might have been contained by now had our Arab brothers listened to His Majesty's counsel and not acquiesced to foreign pressures and designs. Jordan will persist in its defence of the Arab nation and its ideals, especially of those who cannot see beyond their nose.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday called on the American people to stop their president from committing an unforgivable crime directed not only against himself and his people but at mankind in general. By announcing that he would launch the first strike against Iraq, Bush has thus exposed Washington's real intention in the Gulf and refracted from a previous position in which he announced that the United States would not be the first to launch attack, said the paper. With this statement, Bush has now openly revealed his country's aggressive intentions without regard to the grave dangers to America's interests and those of the world at large, said the paper. Once it has launched the first strike, said the paper, the United States would never be able to escape the grave consequences and the result of the conflagration which would ensue in the Gulf. President Bush, said the paper, is now gambling with his own political future and the prestige of the United States as a super power as well as the interests of America's allies. He is advised to be more reasonable, and avert any major catastrophe for humanity as the world can never forgive nor forget America's criminal actions should its people, troops and president start a war in the Gulf region, the paper continued. The nations of the world, the paper added, realise too well that Bush is exploiting international legitimacy to achieve U.S. interests no matter what the cost might be.

## Weekly Political Pulse

### Let's send 'jaha' to Baghdad and Riyadh

By Dr. Walid Sadi

ONE of the cornerstone of time honoured Arab traditions is to resort to "jaha" to resolve a seemingly intractable conflict between tribes or families. The more formidable the disputes, the bigger is the jaha used to settle it. The outstanding feature of this jaha method is that it rarely fails if ever. The Arab sense of honour and tradition requires that "request" of the jaha be honoured and accepted. In view of the fact that jaha tradition is a history honoured custom that never fails to deliver, it would seem that this is the very time when the Arab World should fall back to good old traditions and start thinking about forming a very high level Arab jaha composed of the Arab leaders to visit

Baghdad and Riyadh. I cannot imagine how Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would turn down a sensible appeal from a visiting Arab delegation composed of all the Arab leaders including King Fahd. Likewise a similar high level Arab jaha visiting Riyadh would receive similar response from the leadership of Saudi Arabia. Imagine, if you please, that next Friday King Fahd and twenty other Arab heads of state suddenly drop in on President Saddam Hussein and in keeping with Arab traditions refuse to drink his coffee till he yields to their plea for Arab reconciliation and brotherhood. I would put the chances of success of such a move as high as 90 per cent, if not higher. As a

matter of fact, the embryonic Moroccan peace initiative entails such a recourse to good old Arab traditions. I believe this road would offer a breakthrough in an otherwise dead end road.

In normal and classical diplomatic initiatives, visiting delegations carry with them a definite and clear proposals to offer the other sides. In the case of the jaha idea, such formal presentations cannot be further from the true Arab tradition. The visiting Arab jaha would not be expected to carry with it anything resembling a formal proposal or a specific panacea. Rather the jaha would simply go to "sweeten" the atmosphere and

clear up the air between Baghdad and Riyadh. Once the jaha succeeds in clearing the air and showers the festive occasion with kisses and warm greetings, the stage would become set for a more formal give and take negotiations based on brotherhood rather than animosity and mistrust. The secret of the success of the Arab jaha path is that it speaks in generalities and in terms of principles to warm up the relations between the warring Arab countries or tribes as the case may be. I have a cause to believe that President Saddam Hussein would be much more forthcoming on a settlement of the Kuwaiti situation in a friendly and brotherly atmosphere than through the beating

of the drums of war behind his backyard.

It is hard to believe that an Arab jaha to Baghdad will come back empty handed especially if the purpose of such a jaha is simply to set the stage for a workable and peaceful resolution of the Gulf conflict. The main obstacle before such a scheme is, of course, to convince the various Arab leaders to participate in such a peaceful venture. One may count on Arab chivalry especially in the person of King Fahd and President Saddam Hussein to accomplish this feat. As both King Fahd and President Hussein are most directly affected by any outbreak of war in their region and stand to lose the

most, if not all from such an eventuality, there is every reason to believe that both leaders would opt to exercise optimum statesmanship of historic proportions and facilitate the dispatch of jaha to their respective palaces. One hour-long meeting between King Fahd and President Hussein would offer greater opportunities for a peaceful resolution of the entire dimensions of the Gulf crisis than all the U.N. Security Council resolutions and all the troops in the region put together. All men of goodwill should promote such an encounter through the path of jaha and meanwhile, should abstain from fanning the war sentiment or propagating additional animosity.

## In Saudi Arabia, doubts arise about wisdom of war

By David B. Ottaway

DHAIRAN, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia is growing nervous about its new front-line status as tens of thousands of Western troops pour into Islam's holy land and bring with them the potential for a devastating war against another Muslim nation.

So far, the ruling Saud family seems to have accepted the enormous risks involved in the U.S.-led drive to roll back the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

The threat posed to the kingdom by President Saddam Hussein's invasion, combined with the rapid U.S. military buildup here, appears to have fortified King Fahd's resolve to engage in the raw political dealings among badly divided Arab nations that the Saudis have traditionally eschewed.

Most senior Saudi princes seem convinced that the price the kingdom may pay in war-related damage — and the billions of dollars it is already paying for American and other foreign troops — is worth it.

Yet there are signs that the mood may be changing. Talks with a wide variety of princes, officials, businessmen and ordinary people during the last month revealed an ambiguity creeping back into Saudi state-

ments about the wisdom of seeing the kingdom involved in a devastating war with Iraq despite the shadow that Mr. Hussein's unpredictable regimen has cast over the Arabian Peninsula.

King Fahd's initial reluctance about having the kingdom turned into a launching pad for an American-led attack on another Arab nation was echoed by his defense minister, Prince Sultan ibn Abdul Aziz, at a news conference Sept. 2. Prince Sultan said Saudi Arabia would not allow itself to be used for any kind of military action by outside forces that was not purely in defence of the kingdom.

His statement was taken by outsiders as a temporary ploy by the government to entice Mr. Hussein to release American hostages by assuaging his fears of a U.S. attack. But it was warmly received among even the most pro-American Saudis.

This ambiguity toward going to war seemed to increase as Saudis began to realise that it might be months before the Bush administration and the U.S. military were deployed with sufficient strength to take any military steps toward liberating Kuwait.

As time goes by, there is also a clearer realisation that the

kingdom, particularly the Eastern Province, where its oil facilities are located, is likely to be a prime target for Iraqi missile attacks, perhaps involving chemical weapons.

Saudi society has not had to deal with self-sacrifice or war for decades. The kingdom avoided direct involvement in all the Arab-Israeli wars, concentrating instead on spending \$550 billion from its enormous oil earnings to build a modern country with a cradle-to-grave welfare system.

Suddenly, Western reporters are shattering nerves and self-confidence with probing questions about whether the Saudis are ready for missiles and poison gas. In an apparent indication that they now take such threats seriously, King Fahd had ordered gas masks purchased abroad for every Saudi and foreigner in the kingdom.

By the same token, Americans and other Westerners working at the big state-run oil company, Saudi Aramco, have sent home 4,000 of their dependents, while almost 600 workers, many of them Filipinos, have quit. These actions, too, have helped stir Saudi fears for the future and caused many to ask whether war with Iraq is worth it.

The sense of Saudi doubt

about the path the nation has embarked on comes through in informal conversations.

One oft-expressed desire is to see Mr. Hussein eliminated by an internal political upheaval or assassination at the hands of the Central Intelligence Agency or some other secret service.

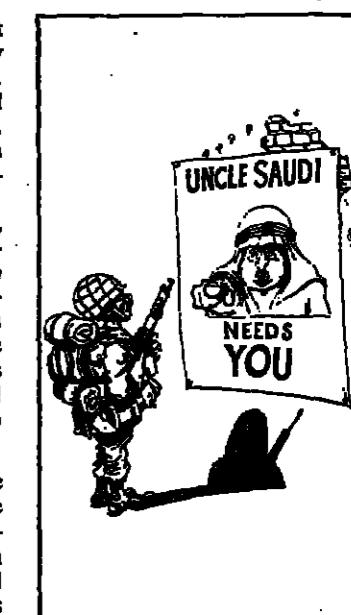
"Remember, we have to continue living in this neighbourhood — and with Iraq," a Saudi remarked.

Many Saudis fear that time is on the side of Mr. Hussein and that he is slowly making headway with his anti-American and anti-Saudi propaganda among the Arab masses.

The Saudis were concerned enough to invite 350 Islamic religious leaders and scholars to the holy city of Mecca to discuss the theological justification for calling in non-Muslim troops.

They also made certain that the scholars toured Mecca and Medina so they could see that no "infidel" troops were there.

A senior Saudi government official, explaining his nervousness about the implications for the kingdom of a drawn-out struggle with Mr. Hussein, said he was sure the Iraqis would stir up demonstrations against the United States and Saudi Arabia throughout the Muslim world.



Such a partial Iraqi withdrawal could place Saudi Arabia and its Muslim and Western allies in a serious dilemma and undermine their unity. It might also undo the Saudi family's resolve to risk war, because the potential marginal gains and President George Bush's relatively abstract goals of shaping international relations in the post-cold war era would no longer seem worth the risk of destruction — The Herald Tribune.

## Israelis

(Continued from page 1)

who pelted them with stones for more than 90 minutes.

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Sunday called on Palestinians to escalate the uprising and to confront "a new Israeli plan to step up the use of fire and gas bombs."

Bassam Abu Sharif, one of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's senior advisers, said: "The situation in the occupied territories has exploded and the Palestinian people have the right to resist the Israeli occupation forces with all means as described by the U.N. Charter."

That permits the use of force to resist occupation.

Abu Sharif did not spell out what intensified resistance would entail.

Since the uprising began in December 1987, Palestinians have mostly confronted Israeli forces with stones and gasoline bombs.

Palestinian hardliners have long urged the use of guns and bombs to fight the Israelis, but armed clashes have been rare.

The uprising has been eclipsed in recent weeks by the Gulf crisis and Abu Sharif's call was seen as an effort to refocus the spotlight on the uprising.

He said in a statement telecast to the Associated Press from PLO headquarters in Tunis that PLO leaders were in contact with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the situation in the occupied territories.

He said the Israeli army was sending reinforcements into the occupied territories in an apparent effort to quell the uprising.

Abu Sharif said hardline Sharif "and his government are going to be confronted with resistance all over."

He said clashes between Palestinians and Israelis are "severe" in Arab Jerusalem and the Sabour, Nablus, Tulkarem, Jenin, Ramallah and Bayt Naim areas of the West Bank.

## High emotion in a sea of caution

By Ian Aitken

THE recent emergency Commons debate on Kuwait was not especially moving. Unlike the patriotic fervour which marked the pre-Falklands sitting, the speeches did not quicken the pulse. Yet for all its understatement, I suspect that it will have done quite a lot for parliament's battered reputation among ordinary voters.

This may have something to do with the presence of the television cameras. Transfixed by their unblinking stare and confronted with a crisis vastly more dangerous than the Falklands, MPs abandoned the vulgarity which disfigures so many Commons "occasions." They listened to the arguments and complimented each other on their sincerity.

Even Mrs. Thatcher dropped the steamy rhetoric which she employs whenever she is out of reach of her minders. Instead, she used the kind of icy Whitehall prose which goes with careful preparation and a text drafted by a committee.

Mr. Kinnock, too, renounced the wilder flights of oratory. But he did better than her, displaying not only the gravitas of a prospective prime minister but also employing language suited to the occasion. It was a memorable performance which has done his standing a great deal of good among his peers.

But if passion was largely absent from the debate, there was at least one moment of genuine, heart-stopping emotion. It happened about halfway through the second day when Eric Heffer was expressing his transparently genuine trade unionist's desire to see

delivered the previous day — reflected a traditional strand of Labour hostility to all wars based on anything smacking of "imperialism." He did not dissent from the general condemnation of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. But he insisted that America and Britain would not have lifted a finger if Kuwait had been growing carrots instead of pumping oil. "It is imperialism or interests," he declared, in almost his final sentence.

It is an argument which would have struck a chord with generations of long-dead Labour Party members, many of whom would have expected to hear the same sentiments from the opposition front bench. It no doubt motivated most of the 35 Labour MPs who joined Mr. Heffer on Friday, and was very likely shared by many Labour loyalists who went into the Aye lobby in obedience to their whips.

"It is now clear that whatever Mrs. Thatcher may say on television about her legal right to act unilaterally under this or that article of the U.N. Charter, powerful forces still exist inside the British and American governments which recognise the crucial importance of the U.N. umbrella, and are prepared to oppose independent military action.

Indeed, sincere internationalists like Mr. Heffer have every reason to be pleased about the way things have developed since the Iraqi attack on Kuwait. What has so far emerged is a truly international operation, the first genuine one of its kind since the end of the World War II, if you count

the process benefits the oil barons, it benefits everyone else, too.

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## Features

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1990 5

### 'Why do you not care?' pleads hostage in letter

IN a letter smuggled out of Kuwait a British financier makes a plea to the Prime Minister and the British people.

"I am a British male hostage, held against my will in Kuwait. My family, thank God, are safe in Britain, but presumably without definite news of me."

"For the past three weeks, like countless hundreds of others, I have been in hiding, never knowing if, or when, there will be a knock at the door. The tensions and stress are, at the best of times, unwelcomely present and, at the worst, unbearable."

"Like many hundreds of my fellow British, I ask the question of the British government and of the British people, 'why do you not care'?"

"We are fortunate that there is still substantial contact between British hostages and there is no doubt that all of us consider ourselves as forgotten and not cared about. And we ask this one simple question to the British government, 'what are you actually doing by sending forces'?"

"If the answer to this is enforcing U.N. sanctions and defending Saudi Arabia, et al,

from attack by Iraq,' then let us hear it clearly and unequivocally stated. Let us bear what Iraq has said is the key to the release of all hostages, namely that the USA, Britain, France etc. will not initiate hostilities against Iraq."

"If the real role of the various forces in the Gulf is to defend and/or to implement sanctions, then there is no earthly reason why each of the relevant Western nations cannot issue the undertaking requested by Iraq."

"Each time a Western leader, or minister, makes an attack on Iraq's president in the media, then the tension builds here, making it more uncomfortable for us. We beg you, switch brains to 'on' before opening mouths."

"The tone of the various statements issued from Great Britain and the USA leaves us doubting — and should make their populations doubt — the real aims of the Western forces. The people of Britain and Europe, specially, should be in no doubt that the real aim of the USA is to ensure that U.S. motorists may continue to pay 75p a gallon for their petrol."

"There may be further aims,

such as testing out new military equipment in desert conditions, but this 'stand for justice' by the West is in reality aimed at protecting the American economy."

"We, as British hostages, ask if this is actually our concern. You as, respectively, the British Prime Minister and the British people, should stop and carefully consider this. Do you, all of you, really put the liberation of Kuwait before the safety of British people?"

"Many of us are in contact with Kuwaitis who did not run away. Many of those left behind are bravely and at some risk to themselves assisting Westerners in many ways... these people are bitter about those who ran away. The growing feeling here is that the Al Sabah family and the others who fled will not be welcomed back."

"It is not the position of a Briton, perhaps, to comment on their flight but Kuwaitis are asking how they managed to not only save themselves but also to pack personal possessions, secretaries, servants etc. as well. Any Kuwaiti is free to return, they are saying, so where are those who would

fight for their country?"

"None of us here disputes the fact that there has been a serious breach of international law and that such things cannot be tolerated. But this is not the Falklands. This is not a British — or anyone else's — possession to be won back."

"This is Kuwait, an Arab country and it is for the Arabs to solve the problem. Defend Saudi Arabia by all means but be fully aware that restoration of the status quo in Kuwait means the restoration of a little-liked bunch of totally self-centred and, by British standards, totally corrupt multi-billionaires to a position where they could continue to line their pockets even more."

"As hostages, in hiding, frightened, in some cases sick and, to a man, disgusted with the attitudes prevailing, we ask the British people to consider all the realities and to help us."

"Please, make your protest and make it loud and strong. Yes, stand up for what is right and decent but play straight and stop the British government pandering to every request of the President of the United States — Guardian Weekly."

### LETTERS

#### Enough feeble excuses

To the Editor:

Occupation by American forces of our holy lands in Najd and Hijaz under the pretext of providing defence for Saudi Arabia in the face of alleged Iraqi aggression is a feeble excuse. The false claim was exposed by the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in his Sept. 5 statement before Congress when he said that the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia will last for a long time, and that the United States should now work out the structure of a new security order for the region. He said that the United States has to play a role in this order, and so American forces' presence must be permanent. With this statement, Baker has thus revealed the real objectives of the imperialistic conspiracy directed against the Arab people, and exposed the false U.S. claims, justifying the deployment of U.S. troops in the Arab region.

Let us raise our voices in protest against the U.S. presence in Mecca.

Let us raise our voices in protest against the embargo which is depriving our children and people of milk and food, and our sick people of medicine.

Let us raise our voices so that our Arab lands can remain united and free.

Manal Younes Abdul Razzak  
President of the Iraqi Women Federation.

#### A line in the sand

To the Editor:

I have just returned from the United States of America, where people are not as "united" as one may think, and certainly not 100 per cent behind President Bush, as the media would have us believe. There are various points of view regarding the "big manoeuvre" and drawing a line in the sand!

Upon returning to Amman I found a letter awaiting me which expresses the thoughts of many. My friend is highly educated, sophisticated, aware and intelligent. I know she will not mind if I quote the exact words.

"I am thinking about you and your family in that awful situation. May God protect all of you.

"I think (they) we should return all our servicemen and send, instead, the Bush administration, the Congress of the U.S., the crooks in the Savings and Loan scandal, the Defence Dept., the lobbyists, the oil companies, (executives), and the Aerospace (executives) companies, and let them confront the Iraqi military. The conflict would last about 30 minutes. The whole thing is a disgrace, perpetrated by a bunch of hypocritical bastards to increase our defence spending, thereby, making the oil barons and the Aerospace bandits even richer.

"I feel so helpless and angry that a few can do so much damage to so many."

May God protect all of us. Let us pray for peace.

Peggy Abu Jaber  
Amman

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#### Iraq renews warning

(Continued from page 1)

move to maintain Iraq's features and resources and improve them in order to achieve the well-known noble objectives."

It also condemned the decision by the United Nations, strongly urged by Washington, to impose an international economic embargo on Iraq and Kuwait.

"America is committing deep criminal acts against Iraq and the Arab Nation, especially in occupying the Arab and Muslim holy places in Najd and Hejaz (Saudi Arabia), and in its sanctions imposed against the Iraqi people in a way that exceeds all humanitarian limits," it said.

"America did all this to satisfy its arrogance and enforce its hegemony on the entire world," the statement said.

"America must not go too far and must get out of its mind the idea of pushing events into a military collision, and it must realise the dangers of what it calls a lightning strike," it said.

It urged the United States and other foreign powers to drop "the language of threats" and work instead for a "climate of understanding."

But it insisted it would not accept any settlement to the Gulf crisis unless based on Iraq's Aug. 12 peace initiative in which it linked a solution in Kuwait to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

"America must realise clearly that it is pushing the entire region, and not only Iraq — in fact, even the whole world, foremost of which its sons whom (U.S. President George) Bush brought to the region — to the brink of a bottomless abyss, from which the region will never see light for dozens of years," it said.

On Friday, Saddam urged the Iraqi people to steel themselves for war and vowed there was no retreat from the Gulf crisis.

"America did all this to satisfy its arrogance and enforce its hegemony on the entire world," the statement said.

"America must not go too far and must get out of its mind the idea of pushing events into a military collision, and it must realise the dangers

#### Iran rejects U.S. plan

(Continued from page 1)

paper said he "is likely to convey American requests for supporting the 'international will' against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait."

Assad was believed to be carrying a message for Rafsanjani from Washington, asking what it will take for Tehran to abide by the sanctions.

Part of the price-tag for Iran's agreement to enforce the sanctions, as well as the release of Western hostages in Lebanon, is believed to be releasing assets frozen by Washington more than a decade ago.

Iran's radicals have been dismayed that Assad has abandoned more than a decade of hostility towards the United States — as much out of expediency as hatred of Iraq — and backed Washington in the Gulf.

Editorials in the radical press suggested Rafsanjani is under great pressure by his hardline opponents to

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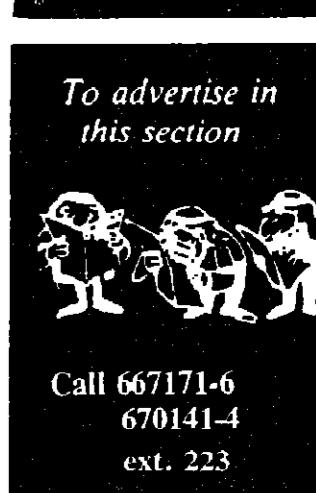
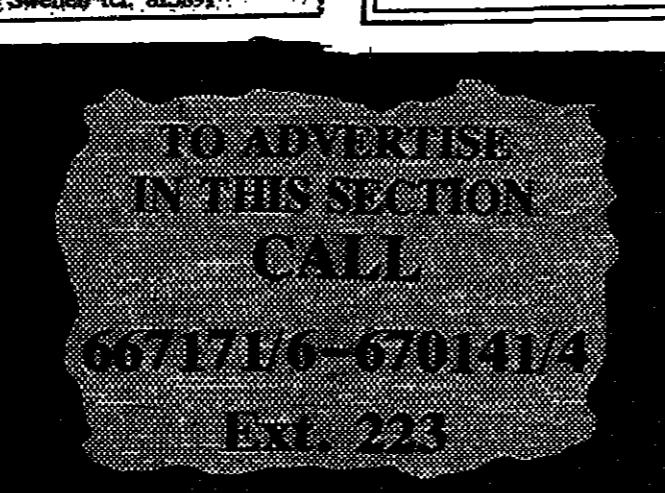
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## Chinese girl wins first gold medal of 1990 Asian Games

PEKING (AP) — A 44-kilogram (97-pound) Chinese girl, lifting a barbell of more than twice her weight, won the first gold medal of the 1990 Asian Games Sunday and surpassed a world record.

China was expected to go on and snare the biggest share of the 308 golds at stake in the 16-day games.

Xing Fen, 17, the world champion in the 44-kilogram division of women's weightlifting, lifted 70 kilograms (154 pounds) in the snatch and 95 (209 pounds) in the clean and jerk for a total of 165 (363 pounds).

The clean and jerk surpassed the world record of 92.5 kilograms (203.5 pounds) she set last year in Manchester, England, and the total tied her world mark. The International Weightlifting Federation, however, does not recognise records not set at world meets.

Women's weightlifting is making its Asian Games debut. Xing's lifts thus became automatic records.

Japan's Satomi Saito was second with a total of 145 kilograms (319 pounds). India's N. Kunjarami won the bronze medal.

In swimming, the question is

whether Japan, which has lost its position as Asia's dominant overall sports power, can continue to reign in the pool.

The Japanese won 17 of the 29 swimming golds in the 1986 games, where China won 10.

But based on results in the two countries' latest national championships, Japanese coaches say China might pull ahead this time.

Sunday's races are in the women's 100-metre freestyle and 400-metre individual medley, and the men's 100-metre breaststroke and 200-metre freestyle.

In men's team gymnastics, China, South Korea and Japan have been the leaders. Japan won the bronze medal in the 1988 Olympics, behind Soviet and East German teams. But China and South Korea both beat Japan in the 1986 Asian Games.

Sunday also marks the Asian Games debut of the South Asian sport of kabaddi, in which teams score by touching opponents on the opponents' side of the court.

An attacking player must continuously shout "kabaddi, kabaddi," and opponents can eliminate him from the game by holding

him down until he has to stop the chant to catch his breath.

In the six-team field, Pakistan plays Japan, Bangladesh meets Nepal and India faces China in first-day action.

Political rivals North and South Korea and China and Taiwan meet each other Sunday in the opening women's softball games. North Korea is returning to the games after boycotting the 1986 games in Seoul and the 1984 and 1988 Olympics.

Taiwan is back after a longer absence. It last competed in 1970, as the Republic of China, but after Peking's entry it was sidelined by a dispute over its use of the name China. It competes now under the name "Chinese Taipei."

Competition also begins Sunday in women's field hockey, yachting, Greco-Roman wrestling, basketball, men's soccer, rowing and men's volleyball.

Track and field action does not start until Thursday.

In the last games, with 270 golds at stake, China edged South Korea 94 to 93 for the top spot. Japan was third with 58.

## Amman Little League kicks off football season

AMMAN (J.T.) — A record high of 360 children between the ages of 5 and 13 kicked off the 1990 Amman Little League football (soccer) season last Friday — with a hopeful eye to victory and perhaps greater things in the future, but certain to have a good time and to learn about the technical skills and sportsmanship that are central to the concept of Little League sports.

At the opening ceremony at the American Community School fields where all games are played, Prince Murad Bin Zeid, deputising for his father Chief Chamberlain Raad Ibn Zeid, officially opened the football season by exhorting the children to enjoy themselves, to aspire to do their best, and to benefit from the Little League sports.

A new feature of this year's season is the availability of improved playing fields, which were funded in part by donations collected last spring and in part by contributions of materials, equipment and expertise by Jordanian and American companies in Amman. The playing surfaces of the two fields at the American School have been totally resurfaced with compacted dirt and sand on top of a solid sub-layer, and will soon see the addition of lights and new fences.

The opening ceremony was also addressed by Little League President Mithkal Asfour, and Football Commissioner Alan Imons, both of whom mentioned the ideals and purposes of the Little League and expressed thanks to the many institutions and individuals whose contributions and volunteer efforts make the Little

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

with planned chores.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you have to do of an outside nature can be effected easily in the morning hours while later drop forcing to gain a personal aim.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20)

Have some added warmth of interest with your own clan at home in morning but in the evening be sure you are careful to avoid extravagant pleasures.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21)

See some close companions you want to know better and continuing relations you want more alliance with and tonight take no chances in irritating family members.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21)

You have an accurate vision for making considerable more prosperity in the morning while later steer clear of accidents in motion.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21)

You have added charm and magnetism this morning so use to get things your way while in the evening need to refrain from heavy property deals.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 21)

Rely more upon your intuitive process in the morning and less on analytical thought while later you are disconcerted with results of a personal nature.

**LIBRA:** (September 22 to October 22)

A magnanimous friend will do you a very marked favor if you contact him in the morning and request it while later busy yourself

of genius that is present.

## Samaranch: IOC has no plans to expel Iraq

PEKING (AP) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has no immediate plans to deal with Iraq over its invasion of Kuwait. IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said Sunday.

The committee will bide its time and hope that events in the Middle East have calmed by the time the next Olympics are held in 1992, Samaranch said at a news conference.

The former Spanish diplomat said he was hopeful of a solution to the military standoff in the Gulf within six weeks but stressed that was based only on a personal impression of events. He would not be more specific.

Last Thursday, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) suspended Iraq and barred it from participating in the Asian Games, which opened two days later. There were fears that Iraqi participation could have led to a boycott by about a quarter of the 37 other members.

Samaranch said the IOC stood by the OCA decision. But he also said that the Asian council was forced to act quickly and that the IOC had time on its side.

"We solve the problems when

## Beardsley scoring goals as Liverpool marches on

LONDON (R) — Peter Beardsley, struggling to hold down a regular place in Liverpool's star-studded side, has responded in the best way possible — with lots of goals.

But such is Liverpool's strength that nothing is certain for Beardsley. "Nobody at this club is guaranteed a first team place," he said recently.

If five goal in two games are not enough to convince manager Kenny Dalglish he cannot afford to leave the darting striker out of the side, nothing else will, say the Beardsley supporters.

He was dropped from Liverpool's first two away games this season, but his hat-trick in last week's 4-0 thrashing of Manchester United meant Dalglish played him at Everton Saturday.

Beardsley scored two more goals in the champions' 3-2 win which maintained both their 100 per cent record and four-point lead at the top of the table after six games.

His brace at Goodison made him the leading scorer in Britain with seven from four games — two more than England team mate John Barnes who scored for the fourth consecutive game Saturday.

His tally is just three short of his total for last season, but Beardsley, who has also been in and out of the England side with the regularity of the tide on the Mersey, accepts he is just part of a squad at Anfield.

The championship is unfolding into a predictable procession, with Arsenal the only side showing the consistency required to push Liverpool.

Palace, fifth and a place below Tottenham on goal difference, looked to be heading for their first defeat of the season before Geoff Thomas equalised with 10 minutes remaining.

Tottenham were held to a 1-1 draw by Crystal Palace, who lost the F.A. Cup final to United and are the surprise package of the new season.

Palace, fifth and a place below

Tottenham on goal difference, looked to be heading for their first defeat of the season before Geoff Thomas equalised with 10 minutes remaining.

Paul Gascoigne had given Spur the lead direct from a free kick with his fifth goal of the season, two minutes before half-time.

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# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1990

## Soviet Union faces disaster from radical programme'

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, deadlocked on how to reform its economy, faces disaster and disintegration if it adopts a radical programme, the most senior government economist said in an interview published Sunday.

Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Abalkin told the newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya that adoption of the radical approach favoured by President Mikhail Gorbachev would fail to revive the economy and weaken the will to introduce a market-based system.

Speaking ahead of key parliamentary votes on the economy, Abalkin attacked the leadership of the largest Soviet republic for approving the "500-day plan" which would strip the Kremlin of much power and establish market mechanisms by late 1992.

The giant Russian Federation, led by the popular Boris Yeltsin, is preparing to implement the plan, which Abalkin described as "essentially based on recognition of the liquidation of the USSR as a state."

The national parliament, the Supreme Soviet, is due to vote on a similar programme Monday. But it faces stiff opposition from Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov and his camp of moderate reformers.

Abalkin, one of the authors of Ryzhkov's more cautious set of economic proposals, said the country was on the edge of an abyss. "Any imprudent step could push us over."

Abalkin believes the government will resign if the radical approach is adopted. Radicals have been asking Ryzhkov to step down for weeks.

President Mikhail Gorbachev, increasingly frustrated by parliament's indecision but anxious to avoid a government shake-up, has called for compromise. He has also asked for sweeping powers to push through reforms by decree.

Yeltsin, bruised in a car accident last week but bracing for confrontation with Gorbachev, has vowed to resist any extension of the already considerable presidential powers.

## Poor states demand aid and debt relief to ease Gulf crisis

WASHINGTON (R) — Developing nations urged rich Western creditors Saturday to help poor states hardest hit by the Gulf crisis by increasing cut-rate loans and reducing the burden of existing debt.

Ministers from the Group of 24 (G-24) developing nations, who met Saturday to coordinate Third World strategy ahead of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank annual talks this week, agreed on a broad package of demands to help them cope with higher oil prices and expected slower world growth.

"They wish to see more relief of debt... from the creditors and more assistance from the fund," said Iranian central bank governor Sayyed Mohammad Hosseini Adeli.

Developing nations want the World Bank to increase low-interest rate loans and say both the bank and IMF should be more ready to hand out the money to those in need.

But Adeli, who chaired the G-24 meeting, added, "there is not a question of creating any special fund at the moment."

G-24 ministers listed in a communiqué the economic costs that many developing nations would suffer as a consequence of the G-7 raises interest rates.

G-24 ministers said creditors should cancel debts, or offer very cheap fresh loans, to the most debt-strapped low-income countries.

The G-24 warned creditors not to decide that oil producers needed less help with their debts because of the latest surge in crude prices. Oil producers could suffer a severe liquidity squeeze once prices decline again.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus last week suggested oil producers use windfall profits from surging crude prices to help developing countries.

"Many of these countries have their own problems," said Adeli. "If we think of the oil producing countries, there are some that are stranded right in the region where the present crisis has created lots of problems for them."

## Bahrain's exports, imports fall

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's exports in the second quarter of 1990 were down to 237 million dinars (\$629 million) against 268.8 million dinars (\$713 million) at the end of first quarter.

Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) figures show that oil income was 182 million dinars (\$483 million) in the same period against 220.1 million dinars (\$584 million) for the first quarter of 1990.

Bahrain, the smallest Gulf Arab oil exporters, produces about 42,000 barrels of oil per day.

Non-oil exports at the end of June, 1990, were slightly up to 55 million dinars (\$146 million) compared with 48.7 million dinars (\$129 million) at the end of March, 1990.

Bahrain's imports in the second quarter of 1990 fell to 286.8 million dinars (\$760 million) against 301.2 million dinars (\$799 million) in the first quarter.

Oil imports, mainly from Saudi Arabia, fell to 108.4 million dinars (\$28.5 million) at the end of June, from 127.7 million dinars (\$33.7 million) at the end of March, 1990.

Western nations have already mobilised billions of aid dollars for these three countries, but Third World officials say the economic shock waves from the crisis will spread into poor Asian countries such as Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and beyond.

World Bank economists have calculated that even with oil prices under \$30 per barrel — current prices are around \$35 — the economies of 60 developing countries would be severely affected.

In an analysis of the crisis, they said that an average 1991 crude price of \$29 would lose oil-importing developing countries nearly one per cent of their gross domestic product next year — the equivalent of \$30 billion.

Poor nations would be hurt both directly by higher oil prices and by high world interest rates as industrial economies try to curb the inflationary impact of more expensive fuel.

The Group of Seven (G-7) richest countries, which also met in Washington Saturday, confirmed they would keep monetary policy steady to combat the Gulf crisis.

Developing nations fear their debt bill will grow even further if the G-7 raises interest rates.

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Part but not all of the difference was due to the low value of the dollar on world exchanges, a bank spokesman said.

The figures do not necessarily reflect living standards. Prices are lower in the United States than in Japan, for example, and the average American enjoys more living space, a bigger car and a lot more meat than the average Japanese.

Investors in Polly Peck who spent £1,000 (\$1,840) in 1980 would have had a £1.3 million (\$2.4 million) investment last December when the glamour share peaked.

The group's history has been troubled and once in the early 1980s its shares lost a quarter of their value in 20 minutes.

In 10 years Nadir has transformed an obscure textile company into a powerful international conglomerate, making him Britain's 36th richest man.

"We drew the attention of British authorities two weeks ago to a campaign to malign Asil Nadir and his company, led by Greek Cypriot lobbies," a senior Turkish government source said.

Nadir, 47, is a political ally of President Turgut Ozal and Polly Peck has built up press and industrial empires in Turkey.

Polly Peck, which Nadir acquired for just £300,000 (\$552,000) 10 years ago, is the world's third largest distributor of fresh produce, benefiting from the more adventurous tastes

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## Cambodian government accepts Sihanouk's compromise offer

PHNOM PENH (R) — Prime Minister Hun Sen has accepted a power-sharing deal proposed by his rival Prince Norodom Sihanouk for Cambodia's new Supreme National Council (SNC), a Foreign Ministry source said.

The leader of the Phnom Penh government was willing to go along with seating Sihanouk, titular head of a three-party guerrilla coalition, as chairman of the council, provided Phnom Penh was given another vote, the source said Saturday night.

Three days of talks in Bangkok this week between the Phnom Penh government and the guerrillas collapsed over the issue of how to seat Sihanouk as chairman of the council.

The coalition wanted Sihanouk to take a 13th place at the conference table, at which each side currently holds six seats.

On Friday, Sihanouk proposed that he be elected chairman and that Phnom Penh be given an extra vote.

The SNC is a key element of a U.N. Security Council plan to bring peace to Cambodia, riven

by 11 years of civil war.

It is supposed to negotiate a ceasefire and then represent Cambodian sovereignty while the United Nations virtually takes over the country before elections.

Hun Sen's acceptance of Sihanouk's plan appeared to clear the way for the SNC to meet again soon to discuss sending a unified delegation to the U.N. General Assembly and to start talks on a ceasefire.

There were other signs the Cambodian capital over the weekend that peace efforts might be about to intensify.

On Saturday, Phnom Penh radio reported that Hor Nam Hong, a close associate of Hun Sen, had been appointed foreign minister. Hun Sen had been handling his government's foreign relations himself.

The appointment was made "to ease the duty of comrade Hun Sen".

Hor Nam Hong is a professional diplomat who held ambassadorships both with the radical Khmer Rouge when they ran the country between 1975 and 1979

and with the Phnom Penh government installed by the Vietnamese after they drove out the Khmer Rouge.

He was the Khmer Rouge's ambassador to Cuba and the Vietnam-backed government's envoy to Poland, Mongolia and the Soviet Union.

An informed source said Hun Sen was preparing to return to Bangkok soon, another indication the peace process might be speeding up.

The Phnom Penh government and the guerrillas have come under increasing international pressure, especially from the superpowers, to put an end to their fighting.

The guerrilla alliance is made up of the Khmer Rouge, responsible for the deaths of more than a million Cambodians during their rule, and two smaller, less powerful armies loyal to former Prime Minister Son Sann and Sihanouk.

Hun Sen angrily blamed Sihanouk for the collapse of the Bangkok talks, the first meeting of the

SNC, calling the former monarch "a threat to the peace process." The view in Phnom Penh appeared to soften afterwards.

"Sihanouk is like the British weather," another Foreign Ministry source said. "One minute it is sunshine, the next rain, the next snow."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Chum Bun Rong said the Khmer Rouge delegation had been unusually friendly during the Bangkok meeting.

"The Khmer Rouge showed their softened position to us this time in Bangkok," he said. "They even smiled at us and asked us how we were."

Many senior officials of the Phnom Penh government, including Hun Sen himself, are former Khmer Rouge fighters.

Chum Bun Rong said fighting had eased in recent weeks as peace talks continued in Jakarta and later in Bangkok.

"The activity of the enemy seems to be reduced," he said.

"There is more safety than before."

PEKING (R) — Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said Sunday he saw no possibility of war with India and that recent border clashes in disputed Kashmir were no cause for concern.

Ishaq Khan told reporters at the end of a four-day visit to Peking that Pakistan and China were strengthening defence cooperation but he had not discussed with Chinese leaders the need for Chinese aid in the event of war with India.

"War is anathema in today's context of reconciliation and detente. As a nation we abhor war. We did not discuss on this occasion the possibility of going to war with India," he said.

"I don't see that possibility," Ishaq Khan added.

On Friday, Pakistani and Indian troops traded artillery fire across the line of control that divides their armies in Kashmir what appeared to be a worsening of their historic conflict in the Himalayan region.

"There have been some clashes but I don't think they are serious," Ishaq Khan said.

"Let's wait ... and not pre-empt anything," Abas Bundu said Saturday in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Taylor, announcing the ceasefire at a news conference Friday, said he wanted peace talks but would never settle for an agreement that did not leave him as president. He has offered cabinet posts to his rivals.

West African leaders, who sent a 3,000-man task force to Monrovia last month to stop the fighting, have not commented on Taylor's ceasefire announcement.

The executive secretary of the 16-nation Economic Community of West African States advised caution.

"There is no possibility of war with India," Ishaq Khan said.

Pakistan said its forces in Kashmir repulsed a ground attack by Indian troops while India said the artillery duel began only after Pakistani forces tried to intrude.

Since independence from Britain in 1947, India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, where Muslims on the Indian-ruled side have mounted a secessionist uprising.

India, which controls two-thirds of the Kashmir, accuses Pakistan of training and arming Muslim militants there.

Islamabad, which maintains that Kashmiris should be free to hold a plebiscite on their future, denies the charges.

China is a close ally of Pakistan and treated Ishaq Khan as chief guest of honour at Saturday's opening ceremony of the Asian Games in Peking.

Asked about their defence cooperation, Ishaq Khan said China had been a major arms supplier over the years and had helped establish Pakistan's defence industry.

"We consider from time to time the challenges we face to our security," he said.

The president said they had made progress in talks on a Chinese nuclear power plant offered to Pakistan by Premier Li Peng during a visit to Islamabad last year. No details were given.

During his stay in Peking — his first foreign visit as president — Ishaq Khan met Li, President Yang Shangkun, Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin and other senior figures.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan levelled numerous charges against Bhutto and her colleagues when he sacked her government on Aug. 6 and ordered fresh elections for Oct. 24.

The hotel case is at the centre of the interim government's efforts to prove that Bhutto and her former ministers abused their powers during their 20 months in office.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan levelled numerous charges against Bhutto and her colleagues when he sacked her government on Aug. 6 and ordered fresh elections for Oct. 24.

The caretaker government charged Saturday that Bhutto tapped the telephones of her political opponents as well as her own party members.

Munshi alleged that two of the most influential members of her government and her Pakistani People's Party had their phones tapped.

He believes, however, the presence of the superpowers at the talks, expected to begin early next week in or near Lisbon, could lend a form of international guarantee to any agreements and boost the confidence of both sides.

The United States and Soviet Union are in fact involved in the Angolan process and it would be good if they also took some responsibility for finding a solution," he said earlier this month.

Civil war erupted in 1975 after Angola became independent from Portugal, preoccupied at the time with its own post-revolutionary power struggles.

The Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), supported by Moscow during a long struggle against the Portuguese, seized power with the help of Soviet aid and advisers and thousands of Cuban soldiers.

In Hong Kong, Governor Sir David Wilson described the agreement as an important step to accelerate the return of non-refugees to Vietnam.

Wilson told reporters he hopes the repatriation programme will begin before the end of this year, adding:

In late July, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told South East Asian nations that the United States would continue to oppose forced repatriation but could accept the new category of those who do not object.

President Corazon Aquino said

the ironies illustrated how few people define Philippine public policy and how much some Filipinos fear continued influence by their old colonial rulers.

"You must understand that other Asian people, the Singaporeans and Japanese and the Koreans, can deal easier with the Americans because you were never their colonial master," said one Asian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"For the Filipinos, it's different. The old relationship of ruler and the ruled is a heavy psychological burden," he added.

During four days of talks on the bases last week, no Filipino politician of national status unequivocally supported retaining them after their lease expires in Sept. 1991. The talks adjourned Friday and were expected to resume in about a month.

Unlike the Japanese, West Germans and others who host U.S. facilities, Filipinos perceive

## Pakistani president sees no war with India

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Fighting has abated in the Liberian capital of Monrovia, where four warring armies appear to be honouring a ceasefire called by rebel leader Charles Taylor.

Fighters of rival rebel Prince Johnson clashed Saturday with remnants of slain President Samuel Doe's army, but the fighting halted in the afternoon, according to residents quoted by the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC).

A battle between Taylor's fighters and the multinational West African army also subsided Saturday, the news agency Agence France-Presse reported.

The ceasefire has renewed hope that food, including 5,000 tons of rice provided by the U.S. government, could be delivered to the devastated capital. Starving Monrovians have been reduced to eating dogs.

Taylor, announcing the ceasefire at a news conference Friday, said he wanted peace talks but would never settle for an agreement that did not leave him as president. He has offered cabinet posts to his rivals.

West African military sources speculated that Taylor was trying to buy time with the ceasefire, or that he realised he cannot outrun the West Africans, who sent warplanes to bomb his artillery batteries last weekend.

Leaders of the West African Task Force settled their dispute Saturday over the command of the force, which includes troops from Nigeria, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Taylor has declared himself president of Liberia, but he has three other people — rival rebel

Prince Johnson; Brig. Gen. David Nimley, a former aide to Doe; and Amos Sawyer, an

opposition figure who was chosen at an Aug. 30 conference of Liberian exiles.

Taylor's claim to the presidency rests on the fact that his army is the biggest and, because he started the Liberian war by invading from Ivory Coast on Dec. 24, attacking President Doe as corrupt.

Western diplomats do not rule out the possibility that Rodriguez's killing might signal a Shining Path campaign of reprisals against the former government.

Garcia is being investigated by police over his alleged responsibility in ordering police and army troops to kill nearly 300 Shining Path guerrillas during uprisings at three Lima jails in 1986.

Saturday's killing took place after Rodriguez left a party celebrating the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Aprista Party.

Shining Path rebels also burned two state-owned buses in a poor Lima neighbourhood, police said. The burnings occurred almost simultaneously with the attack on Rodriguez.

In the city of Pisco, 200 kilometres south of Lima, police said a column of some 50 Shining Path rebels killed one man and burned three farms.

LIMA (Agencies) — Suspected Maoist Shining Path guerrillas killed Peru's former Labour Minister Orestes Rodriguez and his son Oscar as they drove in a Lima suburb Saturday night, police said.

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Unlike the Japanese, West Germans and others who host U.S. facilities, Filipinos perceive

the United States and the Philippines should discuss the "orderly withdrawal" of the 40,000 U.S. troops, Defence Department civilians and military dependents at Clark Air Base, the Subic Bay Naval Base and four smaller facilities.

Angry students backed the call last week, chanting "U.S. bases out" in demonstrations near the U.S. embassy. American officials issued dire warnings of bombings and assassinations by anti-bases extremists.

Anti-bases sentiment is strongest in the educated urban middle class that produces university professors, journalists and other opinion-makers. Anti-bases activists are convinced that building opposition to the bases is simply a matter of educating their "uninformed" fellow countrymen.

A survey in March by the Ateneo University found that 35 per cent of the 1,200 Filipinos polled nationwide were unaware that the United States maintains bases here.

Only 18 per cent wanted the bases either phased out or closed immediately. But 40 per cent supported keeping the bases indefinitely.

Opposition to Marcos, therefore, took on the added character of opposition to the bases. Many of those in the forefront of the

anti-Marcos struggle now hold key positions in the administration, congress and the media.

The bases have become so symbolic of American "intervention" that any U.S. move is seen as a bid to retain the installations.

When Washington ushered out Marcos to Hawaii in the 1986 "people power revolution," many saw the move as a cynical bid by Washington to gain support in the new government for the bases.

In December, U.S. jets flew air cover for pro-Aquino forces against military mutineers seeking to topple her. That was widely interpreted as a bid to pressure her into keeping the bases.

During a devastating earthquake in July, U.S. troops rushed to stricken cities to help in relief operations. Residents of the quake-stricken city of Cabanatuan joked the bases would remain forever because the government simply could not function without them.

The current talks between the Philippines and the United States should usher in a new relationship between the two countries, said Rev. Joaquin Bernas, president of Ateneo University.

"For the Philippines, it should be a major step in the direction of greater self-reliance and not continuing dependency," he added.